

Biography vol 6.

MEMOIRS

OF THE

LIVES *and* FAMILIES

OF THE

Lords *Kilmarnock, Cromartie, and Balmerino.*

*Sed quæ non fecimus ipsi vix ea Nostra
Voco.*



L O N D O N:

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MEMOIRS, &c.



HERE is nothing we are apter to value ourselves upon, than an illustrious Descent; nothing we take so much Pride in, as to recount the noble Deeds of our Ancestors; and yet there is nothing so absurd, as to attribute any Merit to ourselves, from the Virtues of our Progenitors; unless we have something of our own, some conspicuous Worth, that declares us as much allied to their Virtues as to their Blood: Without this intrinsic Merit, we appear like base Metal with the Royal Stamp upon it; we are the meer Shadow of what they were; and those Titles and Honours which descend to us from a long Lineage of great Ancestors, instead of creating us Esteem, serve only to make us more conspicuously contemptible.

A

This

This was the Opinion of the *Grecian Hero*, whose Words I have chosen for my Motto, and has been the concurring Sentiments of all wise Men, in all Ages of the World: The Mob, the meer Vulgar, may be caught with outside Shew; their shallow Understandings may be pleased with the Pomp of Titles and Grandeur, however counterfeit: They may be deceived; but the wise, the judicious and thinking Part of Mankind, examine the intrinsic Worth of the Metal before they admit its Currency: They soon discover the Allov, though gilded with a thousand Titles, and hid under a Roll of Ancestors as old as *Adam*.

The noble Lords, now the Subject of the following Sheets, may boast a Train of Ancestors as long, and as noble, as most Families in *Europe*: Till now they can say their Blood ran untainted in an illustrious Channel, and we may find, amongst their Forefathers, Men as eminent for their Loyalty, and conspicuous for their Virtue, as any our Annals boast of: But what availeth that to them? In one fatal Day they have contaminated their richest Blood, and now have no Interest in their great Progenitors, but to be distinguished by the dead Letters of their Name.

It would be ungenerous to add Reflections to their Misfortunes; and, however they may have deserved of public Justice, to which they

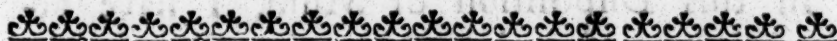
they are now subjected, yet Humanity and Good-nature teach us to treat their Characters with Tenderness, and to alleviate, rather than exaggerate their Crimes.

In this Disposition of Mind, I have attempted to write these Memoirs: My Intentions are free from any Design to asperse the noble Lords, or heighten the Crimes with which they stand charged, by any malicious Representations or ill-natur'd Colourings: On the contrary, I shall keep religiously to Facts, and shall omit no Circumstance that can create a more favourable Opinion of them in the Minds of the Public.

Though the illustrious Deeds of their Ancestors may strike them with secret Compunction, and can afford them no Cause of Exultation, as they have deviated so far from those Steps which raised their Families to that Eclat; yet the public Services of their Forefathers may operate so far in their Favour, as to recommend them, at least to the Compassion, if not to the Mercy of the Public.

I shall therefore proceed, as free from the Fear, as I am from the Intention of offending any Party or Set of Men, by the following Sheets: The noble Lords are now, unhappily for them, the Subject of almost all Conversations; and therefore I thought it might not be an unacceptable Offer to the Public, to present them with what little Knowledge

I had of those unfortunate Noblemen. I shall begin with *William*, Earl of *Kilmarnock*, as he has the senior Title of Earl.



The LIFE and FAMILY of
WILLIAM BOYDE, *Earl of*
KILMARNOCK and Lord
BOYDE.

THE Earl of *Kilmarnock* takes his Title of Earl, from a Royal Borough of that Name, in the Shire of *Cunningham*: The first remarkable Man of his Family, and the first who assumed the Sirname of *Boyde*, is said, by *Scotch* Genealogists, to be *Robert*, the Son of *Simon*, third Son of *Allan*, Lord High Chancellor of *Scotland*, in the Year 1111. so in Right of this *Robert*, from whom the Earl of *Kilmarnock* is lineally descended, this Branch of the Name of *Boyde* claims to be chief, and acted in that Capacity, when Chieftainship was in repute in that Part of the Country; but for more than a Century and a half, Chiefs in that Part of *Scotland*, neither have, nor claim any other Advantage, but that of Precedency.

Historians have left a Blank in the Genealogy of the Family, from the last mentioned

tioned *Robert Boyde*, in the Year 1111, to a Descendant of his, called Sir *Robert Boyde*; who, in the Year 1263, gave signal Proofs of his Valour and military Skill, in that famous Battle of the *Largs*, fought by the *Scots* against the *Norwegians*, who attempted to make a Descent upon that Part of the Country; for which (for it seems in those Days Merit was rewarded) he obtained a Grant from the Crown, of several Lands in the Shire of *Cunningham*: He was succeeded by another Sir *Robert*, who, like his Predecessor, exercised his Valour in Defence of his King and Country; and like him, happening to live in an Age when Virtue was the only Way to Preferment, he received as a Reward of his Services, the Lands of *Kilmarnock*, from *Robert* the first, then King of *Scotland*; which Lands have continued ever since in the Family, and now give the Title of Earl to the present Lord.

He was succeeded by his Son, Sir *Thomas*, a Man eminent for Learning and Piety; he discharged several Employments of great Trust and Honour, to the Satisfaction both of the King and the Subject; he lived to a good Age, and was succeeded in his Estate and Honour, by his Son Sir *Thomas*, who inherited his Father's Virtues as well as his Wealth: He lived in the Esteem of his King and Country, having married one of the

Daughters and Coheirs of Sir *John Giffard*, of *Yester*, in the Shire of *Tweeddale*.

He was succeeded by *Thomas* his Son, who held Places of great Trust under the Crown, and was esteemed a Man of Weight in his Country, and was received by the *English* as one of the Hostages, for the Ransom of King *James* the first: He married *Jane*, a Daughter of the Family of *Montgomery*; by her he had a Son of his own Name, who succeeded him.

This *Thomas*, Historians make no other mention of, except that he was Father of *Robert*; a Man remarkable for his Abilities, both as a Soldier and a Statesman: He made large Additions to his paternal Inheritance, and grew so much into the Esteem and Confidence of his Sovereign, that he was created a Baron, and called to Parliament, by the Name and Title of Lord *Boyde* of *Kilmarnock*: He had a younger Brother, no less eminent for Valour than himself; who received the Honour of Knighthood, and was stiled Sir *Alexander Boyde* of *Duncow*; of which Branch we shall have occasion to speak of presently, as they succeeded to the Estate and Honours of *Kilmarnock*.

Robert, the first Lord *Boyde*, was succeeded by his Son *Robert*; who inherited from his Father, all those eminent Qualities which give Lustre to high Birth: He was a Nobleman of

a quick Wit, and penetrating sound Judgment ; he knew Men and Things as well as any Man of his Time, was courteous and affable in his Behaviour, by which Means he acquired the Esteem and Confidence of all Ranks of People, and in a short Time gained such a Share of Reputation and Popularity, that on the 25th of *October* 1466, he was, by Letters Patent, created Regent of *Scotland*, during the Minority of King *James* the third: He married *Marion*, Daughter of Sir *Robert Maxwell* of *Calderwood*, by whom he had Issue

Thomas Lord *Boyde*, who in his Father's Lifetime, and by his Father's Interest as Regent, married the Lady *Mary Stewart*, eldest Sister to King *James* the third: This Match, and near Alliance to the Crown, added to his own distinguished Merit, raised him to a nearer Place in the Affection, as well as Confidence of his Sovereign, by whom he was created Earl of *Arran*, and in a little Time after was sent Ambassador to *Denmark*, to treat of a Marriage between the young King, his Brother-in-Law, and *Margaret*, a Daughter of that Crown.

He succeeded in his Embassy, espoused the *Danish* Princess in the Name of his Master, received her on board the Ships appointed for her Convoy, and brought her safe to the Firth of *Leith*, where the Queen landed; but her Conductor, the Earl of *Arran*, found it

was not safe for him to set Foot on his native Shore; for though he brought Joy and a Queen to his Sovereign, yet the hidden Practices of his Enemies had so far prevailed on that Prince in his Absence, as to sacrifice to their Resentment, not only the Earl, but all his Family, notwithstanding their own and their Ancestors great Services to the Crown, and in spite of the Ties of Blood which united them so closely.

The Earl of *Arran* was no sooner set out for *Denmark*, than those Enemies, which Envy alone had raised him, set about contriving his Ruin: They represented to the young King, that the old Lord *Boyde* had abused his Power during his Majesty's Minority; they objected his matching his Son, now Earl of *Arran*, with the Royal Family, as an Indignity to the Crown; and the Prelude to the Execution of a Plot they had contrived, of usurping the Sovereignty: This Prince, who had none of the most penetrating Heads, was soon alarmed, and his Fears were as soon wrought upon, he quickly becoming the Tool of the lowest Revenge: At their Request he summoned a Parliament, before whom the old *Thomas Lord Boyde*, the Earl of *Arran*, his Son, (though absent *Respublica Causa*) and his Brother, Sir *Alexander Boyde* of *Duncow*, was summoned to appear, and give an Account of their Administration: The good old Lord
finding

finding it impossible to stem the Torrent, and having no Confidence in the Parliament, which he knew his Enemies had found Ways and Means to model for their mischievous Purposes, (it would seem that pack'd Parliaments is no new Thing) took an Opportunity to make his Escape into *England*, where he died in Peace.

His Brother, Sir *Alexander*, had the Courage to stand a Trial; but his Innocence was not sufficient to save him from the Malice of his Enemies; he was attainted, found guilty of High Treason, and executed.

Things were in this Situation when the Earl of *Arran* arrived with the espoused Queen in the Firth of *Forth*: Before he landed, he had some Friend who gave him Intelligence of the State of his Family, and the Danger of his Person: He therefore did not think it proper, to attend the Ceremonial of the Queen's Landing, or to trouble his weak and ungrateful Master with the Success of his Embassy; but, taking the Opportunity of one of those *Danish* Ships which convoyed the Queen, and were under his Command, he embarked his Wife, and retired to *Denmark*, where he met a noble Reception, suitable to his high Birth and real Merit: From thence he travelled into *France*, and going to pay a Visit to *Charles*, then Duke of *Burgundy*, in the Year 1470, he died at *Antwerp*, and was honourably

honourably interred at the Expence of the Duke of *Burgundy*, who ordered likewise a superb Monument to be erected to his Memory, with an Inscription suitable to the great Character he had justly merited from all Lovers of Worth and Virtue.

By his Lady, the Lady *Mary Stewart*, he left a Son, named *James*, who died without Issue; and a Daughter, who was first married to *Alexander Forbes*, Ancestor of the Lord *Forbes*, and afterwards to *David Kenedy*, Earl of *Cassils*; by both which Marriages she had Issue; the Lady *Mary*, Widow of the Earl of *Arran*, in the Year 1474, married *James Lord Hamilton*, and in her Right, and as descended from her, that noble Family of *Hamilton* was next in the Intail of the Crown of *Scotland*, after the Extinction of the House of *Stewart*.

The Earl of *Arran's* Son *James*, dying without Issue, the Line was carried on by Sir *Alexander*, Son of Sir *Alexander Boyde* of *Duncow*, who by King *James* the fourth was restored to the Lands of *Kilmarnock*, and the rest of the Estate of his Family.

Though he had not so much Power as some of his Predecessors, nor so large an Estate, yet he by no means fell short, or was any way wanting in those Qualifications, which had rendered his Family illustrious: The Misfortune which had so lately involved
them

them in Ruin, made him cautious in meddling with State-Affairs: He was satisfied with his private Estate; and free from Public Envy, or the racking Torments of Ambition, he lived a Life of Retirement, honoured and respected by all who knew him. He married a Daughter of the Family of *Colvil*, by whom he had Issue three Sons.

Robert the Eldest succeeded, and proved but unactive; he lived upon his Estate in the Country; seldom or never coming to Court: Whether the Catastrophe of his Family was still in his Mind, and deterred him from dabbling in Politics, or the natural Indolence of his Temper gave him Aversion to Business, is uncertain: He was allowed to have Capacity enough to discharge the highest Employments; and if he did not possess the Hereditary Qualities of his House, in that eminent Degree which some of his Predecessors had done, he betrayed no Vice to sully the Lustre of his Descent; he married *Helen*, Daughter to Sir *John Sommerveil* of *Comnetham*, by whom he had Issue

Robert his eldest Son and Heir, a Nobleman who had a Genius as remarkable for Activity, as his Father's was for Indolence: The Troubles of the Times, during the unhappy Reign of that unfortunate Princess *Queen Mary*, gave him sufficient Opportunity to exercise his great Talents: Though he condemned

demned the imprudent Measures, which involved the Queen in the Disasters of her Reign, yet he preserved his Loyalty to that unhappy Princess, during the worst of Times; and in her greatest Exigency expressed his Abhorrence of the violent Measures pursued by the Subjects against her: And though he wanted the Power, yet he shewed an Inclination to support the Rights of his Sovereign against the wild Encroachments of the giddy People; since he risked his Life in her Defence, as often as he had an Opportunity; and never deserted her Cause, till by her imprudent Flight into *England*, she put it out of the Power of her loyal and well-affected Subjects to do her any Service. It was then, and not till then, that he made a Virtue of Necessity, and complied with the Times, and the Humour of the People, who sat her Infant Son upon the Throne, without any regard to the Mother's Title: He married *Margaret*, Daughter and sole Heiress of *George Colghoun* of *Glins*; which made a considerable Addition to his Paternal Inheritance: By her he had Issue several Daughters, one of whom married *Hugh Montgomery*, Earl of *Eglinton*; he had likewise a Son named *Thomas*, who succeeded him.

Thomas, was just of Age when he came to the Estate, and applied himself entirely to the Improvement of his private Fortune; he loved
Money

Money more than Renown and Glory, and sacrificed every Thing to his covetous Disposition ; He had no Talent for State-Affairs, otherwise he might have proved a fit enough Tool for a venal Court : And as he had no Court Talents that could be of any use to King *James* in *Scotland* ; so he had no Share of the *English* Money, which that Monarch squandered away profusely upon those of his *Scotch* Subjects, who attributed more Wisdom to him than *Solomon* possessed ; and for the sake of Pensions, bestowed more Prerogative upon him, than any of his more deserving Predecessors ever enjoyed, and for which some of them would have taken the Forfeit of those Courtiers Heads, who would have presumed to mention the Design of such an Encroachment upon the Liberty of the People. *Thomas* lived little respected for any good Quality, and died less lamented than any of his Forefathers : He married *Marion*, Daughter of *Matthew Campbell* of *Loudon*, Ancestor to the Earl of that Name ; by whom he had Issue, a Son named *Robert*, and a Daughter who married *James Hamilton*, Earl of *Abercorn* ; his Son *Robert* married *Jane*, Daughter to *Mark Ker* Earl of *Lothian* ; he died before his Father, leaving Issue two Sons, one named *Robert*, who succeeded his Grandfather, and *James* who likewise came to the Estate.

This

This *Robert*, though he enjoyed his Grandfather's Estate, inherited none of his Vices; and was entirely free from that sordid covetous Disposition, which betrayed itself in all his Predecessors Actions: He was generous without Profusion; charitable without Ostentation; a zealous Friend, and no inveterate Enemy: He was a hearty Friend, to, and Supporter of the Reformed Doctrine of the Church of *Scotland*; in short, a Man of extensive Charity and universal Benevolence: He never affected any Character but that of a private Gentleman, and preferred the Approbation and Confidence of a few faithful Friends and Neighbours, to the Noise and Bustle of a Court: And though he did not die with so much Public Eclat, as some of his Predecessors, yet he left the World as much regretted by the honest Part of Mankind, who were Witnesses of his Virtue, as any Man of his Race. He married *Christian*, Daughter to *Thomas Hamilton*, Earl of *Haddingtoun*; and died in the Year One Thousand Six Hundred and Twenty-Eight; leaving Issue *Robert* his Son and Heir, and four Daughters.

The Records of the Family, make no other mention of this *Robert* who succeeded, but that he died without Issue, and that his Estate and Honours devolved upon *James* his Uncle, by the Father's Side. Historians, as well as the Records, are as silent as to the
Deeds

Deeds or Character of *James* as they are of *Robert*; they marry him to a Daughter of *John Clark* of the City of *York*, Esq; by whom he had Issue, *William* his Son and Heir. This is the first Time they have matched beneath their Quality; and some account for it in this Manner: They say *James* married this Lady, when he had no Prospect of the Estate; and so as a younger Brother had more Occasion for Money than high Blood: Of the former, this Lady had it seems great Plenty; but the real Occupation of her Family, the Annalist chose to conceal under that general Appellation of Esquire; but whatever might be the Lady's Quality, she brought with her a large Stock of Ready-Money; which the Estate at this Period of Time wanted; and possessed as large a share of Virtue and Prudence, as any Lady that ever married into the Family.

William succeeded to the Estate, and gave early Proofs of his Abilities; and that he inherited all the shining Qualities of his Progenitors: He was esteemed a Man of Wit and Learning, which recommended his more solid Parts in the gay Court of King *Charles II.* He was remarkably active in the Interest of that Monarch, when the Prospect of his Restoration was set on Foot; for which, and some Services he did the Crown after the Restoration, he was created by King *Charles II.* Earl of *Kilmarnock*

The Family having remained in a private Station from the Time of the famous Earl of *Arran* in *James III*'s Reign, till this Period, when they again appeared in Parliament with their ancient Lustre. He married *Janet*, Daughter to *William Cunningham*, Earl of *Glencairn*: He died in the Year One Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety-two; leaving Issue four Sons and two Daughters.

William the eldest Son succeeded; a Youth remarkably beautiful in his Person, and a particular Sweetness in his Temper, joined to a ready Wit, and a Solidity of Judgment beyond his Years, gave Hopes that he would prove an Ornament to his high Birth and Station; but he survived his Father but a few Months. He had married, in his Father's Life-time, *Lettice*, Daughter of *William Boyde*, a considerable Merchant of the City of *Dublin*, and a Relation of his own; by whom he left Issue, *William*, the third Earl of *Kilmarnock*; and *Thomas Boyde*, a Gentleman eminent in the Profession of the Civil and Municipal Law of *Scotland*, who, for his distinguished Merit, was promoted to the Honour of Lord Advocate.

William, the third Earl of *Kilmarnock*, was no less distinguished for his Abilities than the rest of his Predecessors: He was remarkably zealous in the Parliament of *Scotland*, for that famous Act called, *The Act of Security*; he

he was somewhat wavering in his Conduct with Relation to the Union ; and affected, in the beginning of that Affair, to join the *Squadron Volante* ; I mean that Party, headed by the Marquis of *Tweeddale*, who were distinguished by that Name, on account of their pretending to join neither of the Parties, but to cast the Ballance betwixt them : But the Earl, finding the Weakness, as well as the selfish Views of that Party, left them, and joined the *Whiggs*, and those who promoted the Union ; though like many others who voted for it, he could have wished it had been conducted with more Circumspection ; that the Means to bring it about had been less worthy of Censure ; and that the whole had put on a more popular Aspect. He died on the Twenty-second of *November*, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventeen ; leaving Issue by *Euphene* his Wife, Daughter to *William* Lord *Ross*, the present *William*, the Fourth Earl of *Kilmarnock*.

William the Fourth Earl, now confined in the *Tower of London*, was but very young when his Father died ; but discovered an early Genius not unworthy the Dignity of his Birth : But his Father's Death, leaving him too soon at Liberty to be his own Master, and the Indulgence that is generally given to young Noblemen, added to the natural Sprightliness of his Temper, soon gave him an Aversion to a rigorous

Study of Letters, though he had made some Progress in Classcal Learning, and had acquired some tolerable Notion of Philosophy and Mathematicks; but there was too much of the volatile in his Disposition, to continue long at Exercises, that required Application: He was more happy in acquiring those which are called genteel Accomplishments; such as Riding, Fencing, Dancing, and some Musick; in all which he excelled, and is justly esteemed by Men of Taste, a Polite Gentleman.

When he came to the Estate, it was pretty much incumbered, and great Part of the old Patrimony alienated: The Earl's Disposition was by no Means cut out for improving it by Parsimony; on the contrary, as his Income was infinitely short of what the Generosity, or rather the Profuseness of his Disposition would prompt him to spend, he found his Affairs daily growing worse, and therefore thought of bettering his Circumstances, by an advantageous Match: To this Purpose, he fixed his Eyes upon Lady *Ann Livingston*, Daughter of *James*, Earl of *Linlithgow* and *Callander*, a young Lady of considerable Fortune, a great Beauty, and every way accomplished to make the greatest Prince happy: The Earl made his Addresses to the Lady, but her Friends, who knew the low Ebb of the Earl's Fortune, refused their Consent; however

ever his Lordship's agreeable Person and genteel Address, raised a Friend for him in the generous Lady's Bosom, who is generally an Enemy to Settlements, and other paternal Cautions: In short, the young Lady married him without her Mother's Consent, who was obliged to submit when there was no Remedy. His Lordship proved but ungrateful for the Lady's Generosity, and public Fame strangely belie him, if she had not much Cause to complain of his Conduct; but as the Lady has both a large Share of Spirit, Wit, and good Sense, they have lived, if not happily, at least civilly together.

His Lordship's Excesses, added to the Charge of a Family, reduced the Estate so low, that it was not now sufficient to support them with any tollerable Decency; his Lordship was therefore obliged to apply to the Ministry for a Pension, which he obtained in Consideration of ————, and has ever since enjoy'd it: This, by most People, is looked upon as an Aggravation of the Earl's Treason; but I consider it in a different Light: A Pension granted by the Sovereign to a Peer reduced to Circumstances unequal to his Dignity, is, no doubt, an additional Tye upon his Loyalty, and must heighten any Act of Ingratitude of his, in a high Degree; but a Pension granted by a Minister to serve some Party Purpose, and perhaps to betray the essential Privilege of

Peerage, cannot be compared with this; the one enforces Love and Gratitude, while the other saps the Foundation of Honour, and hardens and prepares the Mind of the Receiver, for the blackest Treachery. He, who for the Sake of a Bribe or a temporary Pension, can give up his Freedom to the Dictates of a designing Ministry, can never be possessed of any Principles of Loyalty to his Sovereign: As he has sold himself to the Minister, he must be ready on all Occasions, to make the best Market of his Treachery, and to make Shipwreck of his Duty, both to King and Country, when an Opportunity offers that flatters his Interest. Whether my Lord *Kilmarnock's* Pension was a ministerial Bribe, or a Royal Bounty, is a Question I cannot determine with any Certainty; but I have Reason to suspect the former, since few Pensions, granted by a certain Administration, deserved the Name of the latter: But without Breach of Charity we may make this Remark, which I hope will not be thought unseasonable, that little or no Dependence is to be had upon that Loyalty, which wants the Support of Bribes or Pensions. I dare not wish that all who are bribed may betray their Trust; the Practice is too general, and a Defection of this kind of Men might be fatal to the State: But I hope there is no Sin in wishing, and that all honest Men will join me in my Wish, that every Person

who

who bribes the Subject, to serve Private or Party Views, may be deceived by those they bribe.

It does not appear to me that the Earl was in the original Design of this Rebellion; I don't take him to be of that Complexion, that the Party would have trusted him with their Designs before they were ready, or rather partly put in Execution: As his Countess is Heiress of the House of *Linlithgow* and *Callandar*, this Lord might flatter himself with some Advantages that way, by the Restoration of the House of *Stewarts*: This Circumstance, and his Lordship's Necessities, might induce the Party to number him as one of their Friends, without so much as consulting his Inclinations; and these Hopes might likewise induce his Lordship to comply with their Solicitations with less Reluctance; but it is certain the Rebellion was far advanced, before his Lordship so much as thought of joining them, and had he been supported by but one Friend, to second his own natural Timidity and Irresolution, he had certainly deceived the Expectation of the Party, and preserved his Loyalty. But his Lady happening to be at *Edinburgh* when the young Pretender entered that City, she was charmed with the Gaiety of his military Court, and the Affability with which he treated her and all the Ladies: The Countess is naturally of a very gay Disposition, is

fond of public Diversions, and is generally the first at all Parties of Pleasure; she found herself more than usually caress'd, by a Person who personated Sovereignty, which flattered her Vanity, and puffed up her Ambition; she was soon converted to the *Jacobite* Faith, and her Lord had not Resolution to withstand her Solicitations, especially after the Battle of *Preston-Pans*, which elevated the *Jacobites* to such a Degree, that they esteemed it Madness and Infatuation in every Body who did not immediately join their Standard: Amongst the rest, the Earl of *Kilmarnock* joined them, and was received by the young Chevalier with Marks of great Esteem and Distinction; he was declared of the Privy Council, made Colonel of his Guards, and promoted to the Degree of a General. How his Lordship behaved in these Stations, (quite new to him, and foreign from his former Manner of Life,) I shall not take upon me to determine; but common Fame says, that he behaved with Courage and Resolution till the Day of the Battle of *Culloden*, when every Thing that was manly forsook him, and he rather surrendered himself than was taken Prisoner; from whence his Lordship's Enemies make very unfavourable Conjectures, which, though dishonourable in the main, yet as they would tend, if true, to promote his Lordship's Safety, I wish there may be some Grounds for them, though to speak the Truth,

Truth, from the small Knowledge I have of his Lordship, and the general Opinion his Acquaintances had of him, I believe him as little capable of doing what is hinted at, as any Man living: It is the Fate of the Unfortunate, that few speak Truth of them, but each according as they affect; and Malice and a warm Imagination, frequently supply the Place of, and is believed as firmly as the best supported Facts.



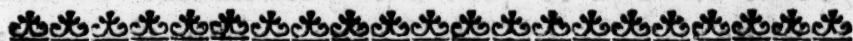
The LIFE of GEORGE
M'KENZIE, *Earl of CROMARTIE, Viscount TARBAT, Lord M'LEOD and CASTLEHAVEN, Hereditary Sheriff of the County of Cromartie, and Baronet of Nova Scotia.*

THE Family of George, Earl of *Cromartie*, is a Branch of the Family of *Seafort*; so that in tracing his Descent, we must go back as far as the Original of that Family.

The Name of *M'Kenzie* is one of the most antient, and amongst the most numerous of the Clans of *Scotland*: They account for their Name and their Original, in the following Manner:

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net of Nova Scotia.

THE Family of George, Earl of *Cromartie*, is a Branch of the Family of *Seaforth*; so that in tracing his Descent, we must go back as far as the Original of that Family.

The Name of *M'Kenzie* is one of the most antient, and amongst the most numerous of the Clans of *Scotland*: They account for their Name and their Original, in the following Manner:

Manner; in the Year 1263, the *Danes* and *Norwegians* made a Descent upon the West Coast of *Scotland*; this Descent being rumoured Abroad, several young Gentlemen, who wanted to push their Fortune, came over from *Ireland* to the Assistance of *Alexander* the third of *Scotland*; amongst the rest *Collin Fitzgerald*, a younger Son of the Earl of *Kildare* or *Desmond* came over, and carried along with him a few Volunteers, who came Time enough to join King *Alexander* at the famous Battle of the *Largs*, when the *Scots* obtained a signal Victory over the *Norwegians* and *Danes*: Our young Adventurer *Collin*, shew'd himself worthy of the high Blood of the *Fitzgeralds*, and gave such surprizing Proofs of his Valour and military Skill, that the King took particular Notice of him, and rewarded his high Merit, by bestowing upon him the Lands and Barony of *Kintail* in the Shire of *Ross*; which appears from a Charter under the Great Seal of *Scotland*, dated at *Kincardin*, in *January* 1266. The *Scotch* King, by this means, secured our Adventurer to himself, and by giving him an Interest in, made him look upon himself as a Native in the Country, where he is now to settle: *Collin* married a Daughter of the House of *Argyle*, and by her had a Son named *Keneth*, who succeeded his Father in the Barony of *Kintail*: This *Keneth* was as remarkable for Prowess and

and Valour as his Father, and in these unsettled Times, had many and frequent Opportunities of giving Proofs of it: He soon acquired a large Share of military Reputation, the only Quality in Esteem in these Days, and having a very numerous Issue, his Children were distinguished by the Patronymick *M'Keneths*, or the Sons or Children of *Keneth*, a Thing very common in that Country; from a Patronymick, they came to use it as a Surname, forgetting that of *Fitzgerald* entirely, and by Degrees *M'Keneth* came, by Corruption, to be changed to the present Orthography *M'Kenzie*: They remained Barons of *Kintail* from this Time, till 1623, when they were created Earls of *Seaforth*, a Space of near four Hundred Years.

Keneth, the second Baron of *Kintail*, was equally remarkable with his Father for Deeds of Arms; and what was extraordinary in a military Man, was very religiously disposed: He was a rigid Observer of all the Feasts and Fasts of the Church; moderate in all his Passions, which he endeavoured to keep still in greater Subjection, by the most severe religious Penance. He was charitable to the Poor, but carried his Largesses to the Priests and Begging Orders, to a Degree of Excess; he spent his Income, which was considerable in those Days, in Acts of Charity and Hospitality; when he died, he left all his Personal Estate

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to the Church, dividing it amongst the several adjacent Monastries; and left a large Rent-Charge upon his real Estate, to be paid to the Monks of *I. Colum. Kill.* for saying a Number of Masses for the Repose of his Soul, and that of his Ancestors: This was the religious Foible of those Days, which the Priests found many Opportunities to improve to their Advantage; but later Ages have found out a Way to Heaven, less expensive to themselves, and less destructive of their Patrimonial Estate.

He was Father of *Keneth*, the Third Baron of *Kintail*, who happened to be at some Public Meeting with *Mackay*, Ancestor of the Lord *Rea*, where a Quarrel of small Significance happened, yet was carried on with a great deal of Spleen and Rancour, by the Adherents of both Sides for several Years. They had several Skirmishes, as being both Chieftains, considerable for the Number of their Followers, which were determined sometimes in Favour of the one, and sometimes of the other; but it was the Misfortune of the Baron of *Kintail* to lose his Life, by a random Shot of an Arrow in one of these Engagements, though his Men got the better of the *Mackays*.

To him succeeded *Murdoc*, the fourth Baron of *Kintail*, who endeavoured to revenge his Father's Death upon the *Mackays*; but both Parties finding themselves sensibly weakened by

by this unnatural Contention, they, by the Interposition of some neutral Friends, accommodated their Differences amicably; and to cement their Union, and take away all Colour of Animosity, a Match was concluded between *Murdoc* the young Baron of *Kintail*, and a Daughter of *Mackays*, which had the desired Effect; and the two Families remained in perfect Peace and Union, to the great Joy of both their Clans and their Neighbours, who were much embarrassed by these Intestine Feuds.

Murdo died and left Issue, by the fore-mentioned-Match, *Alexander*, a Youth of great Parts, and distinguished Courage; he happily saw his Family freed from all private Quarrels, so that he had an Opportunity of exercising his great Talents in a more honourable Cause, than in deciding petty Disputes with his Neighbours; that was, in Defence of his King and Country.

The Kingdom was then engaged in a War with the *English*: The young Baron was emulous of Glory and military Reputation, and therefore soon repaired to the King's Standard, though it was not yet his turn to be summoned; he carried with him several of the young Men of his Clan, who were fired with the same Desire of Fame, which actuated their young Chief. He had married into a potent Family, a Daughter of *Mac-Dougald* of *Lorn*;

Lorn ; who on this Occasion made several of his best Men join his Son-in-Law, that he might appear at Court with the greater Lustre. Our young Warrior was very well received by King *James IV.* but unhappily for him, his Thirst of Glory only hastened his End ; and all the Advantage he reaped by it, was to be buried with the Flower of the *Scotch* Nation, in that fatal Field of *Flowden*, where *James IV.* and most of his Nobility lost their Lives.

To him succeeded *Keneth*, of whom Records make no further mention, but that he married a Daughter of *Hugh Lord Lovat* ; a Match very natural and political ; since in those Days it was as natural for Chiefs of Clans, to make Alliances with such of their Neighbours as could assist them with Men, as it is now for Kingdoms to value Alliances in Proportion to the Power and Strength of the Kingdom allied. He left Issue four Sons and a Daughter.

John the Eldest succeeded, who applied himself early to Business, and endeavoured to cultivate in himself, rather the Arts of Peace than that of War ; he was esteemed the most judicious Man in that Part of the Country ; and was generally the Arbitrator of all the Differences which happened in his Country ; which he composed for the most Part to the Satisfaction of all Parties concerned. He grew exceeding

exceeding popular in his Country, and upon his Arrival at the Court of King *James V.* that Monarch soon took Notice of his Ability, promoted him to several Places of Trust as well as Profit, and finding his Fidelity equal to his Capacity, he admitted him of his Privy-Council. He preserved his Reputation and Character untainted till his Death, and was succeeded in his Barony of *Kintail*, by his Son *Keneth*.

Keneth, by no means answered the Pains his Father had taken upon him, to form him for great Things; nor the Expectation the World might conceive of the Son of such a Father. He had none of those shining Abilities which had raised his Predecessor to the Rank of a Statesman; and the best that could be said of him was, that he was not remarkably vicious. However he married honourably, and according to the Dignity of his Birth. He married *Elizabeth*, Daughter of *John* Earl of *Athol*, a Branch of the House of *Stewart*, which bore that Title, and by her had Issue several Sons.

Colin the Eldest succeeded to the Barony of *Kintail*, at a very troublesome Period of Time, when the Kingdom was rent and divided by intestine Broils and Divisions, in the Beginning of the unhappy Reign of Queen *Mary*; and was numbered amongst the few Loyalists who followed the Fortune of that unhappy Princess, as long as there was any
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room for rational hope of doing her any Service. He commanded a Part of her Army, at that fatal Battle fought near *Hamilton*; and gave signal Proofs of his personal Valour as well as Conduct. Upon her Majesty's Flight into *England*, he was amongst the last of her Friends, who submitted to the Regency appointed during the Minority of her Son King *James VI.*

Notwithstanding he had been a zealous Stickler for the Queen-Mother, against the Partizans of the young King; yet he knew so well, how to accommodate himself to the Exigence of the Times, that he so soon wrought himself into the Confidence of the young Monarch, that he declared him one of his Privy-Council, and held him in general Esteem all his Life-time; though he used more Freedom with his Majesty than any other of the Courtiers, in upbraiding him for his Indolence, in the Defence of his Mother against the Tyranny of Queen *Elizabeth*. He married *Barbara*, Daughter of *John Grant* of *Grant*, Chief of the Name of *Grant*, and Ancestor of the present Sir *James Grant* of *Grant*; by her he had Issue one Daughter, named *Margaret*, who married *Simon Lord Lovat*, and three Sons *Keneth*, *Roderick*, and *Colin*.

Keneth the Eldest succeeded his Father, and was for the first Time created a Baron in Parliament, by the Name and Title of Lord
Kintail

Kintail. His Grandson was afterwards created Earl of *Seaforth*, which Title that noble Family enjoyed untainted, till, by the Folly of the last Earl, the Honours were forfeited for his Appearance in the late Rebellion in the Year 1715. But we have no further Occasion to pursue the Lineage of this Family; since *Roderick*, the second Brother of this first Lord *Kintail*, was Ancestor to the Earl of *Cromarty*, whose Genealogy we are now tracing.

Roderick was a Gentleman of distinguished Merit, and recommended himself to King *James VI.* by whom he was Knighted. Tho' he was no Friend to the Encroachments that Monarch endeavoured to make upon the People, by claiming more Prerogative than was consistent with the Nature of the Crown of *Scotland*, he constantly opposed in Parliament all Acts that tended to enlarge the Power of the Crown; though his Opposition, and that of the few that joined him, had little or no Effect, the *English* Treasury which King *James* lavished away among his greedy Courtiers, still procured him a Majority in the Senate; *English* Money proving always too prevalent against the strongest Efforts of Reason or Justice; which was all the Friends of Liberty had, to oppose to the Designs of a Ministry, who had determined to put a Price upon every Thing. *Roderick* soon found that his Zeal

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for his Country was of no Signification; could bring Her or Liberty no Relief; but only exposed his own Person to the Malice and Resentment of a worthless Set of Courtiers: He therefore wisely withdrew from Court, and retired to the Country; where he married *Margaret*, Daughter and sole Heiress to *Torquil Mac-Leod* of the *Lewes*, by which Match, besides a considerable Fortune, he added to his Arms, in Right of his Wife, *Or, a Mountain in Flame Proper*; which the Earl of *Cromarty* wears to this Day. He died in One Thousand Six Hundred and Twenty-five, leaving Issue, four Sons and one Daughter.

John the Eldest succeeded to his Father's Virtues as well as his Estate, had a large Share of natural Parts, as well as of acquired Learning; he excelled in the Polite Arts, and was accounted one of the most accomplished Gentlemen of his Age: He was a zealous Friend to Liberty, and of unshaken Loyalty to his Sovereign *Charles I.* by whom he was created a Baronet of *Nova Scotia*. The Times he lived in were full of Trouble and Dangers, and required the utmost of his Skill to reconcile his Loyalty to the Prince, and his Duty to his Country; yet he happily found out the Golden Mean, to preserve both, amidst all the Hurry and Confusion of the Times, without making Shipwreck of either. He attached himself

himself to his Majesty, as long as his Measures were just, and his Views were bounded by the established Laws of the Land, and the Freedom of the Constitution : But left him, and as zealously served the Parliament, when his Majesty seemed inclinable to make any Encroachments upon either. He distinguished between a Love of Liberty and Faction ; between Freedom and Licentiousness ; between Loyalty, founded upon Principles consistent with the Nature of Government, and a slavish Subjection to the arbitrary Dictates of the Sovereign Will.

Thus pursuing no Scheme but the Honour of his Prince, and the Liberty of his Country, he lived at Peace in the midst of Confusion ; and found himself carested by all Parties, loved by honest Men, and feared by Knaves. He married *Margaret*, Daughter and one of the Coheiresses of *George Erskine* of *Innecal*, Brother to *Thomas*, Earl of *Kelly* ; by whom he left two Sons. *Roderick*, the youngest, took himself to the Study of the Law, in which he became eminent, and was promoted to the Dignity of one of the Senators of the College of Justice. He married *Margaret*, Daughter of *Alexander Burnet*, Archbishop of *St. Andrews*, by whom he had *Alexander* Lord *Lovat*.

Sir *John* had likewise five Daughters, one of whom was married to *Hugh* Lord *Lovat*, and another to *Keneth*, Earl of *Seaforth*.

George his eldest Son succeeded him in his Estate and Honours ; as also in his unshaken Loyalty and Fidelity to his exiled Sovereign King *Charles* II. He never could be persuaded to submit to the Usurper, but on all Occasions opposed his Measures, and gave him abundance of Trouble in the *North*, where his Interest and that of his Family lay : He kept up, notwithstanding all the Caution *Cromwell* could put in Practice, a constant and close Correspondence with the Royal Exile, during the whole Usurpation. From him he had a Commission to levy what Forces he could for his Majesty's Service and Restoration : Tho' he had no Occasion to raise Forces to bring about that Affair, yet when that Event was compleated, and his Majesty safely settled upon the Throne of his Ancestors, he was amply rewarded for his Loyalty and Zeal ; a good Fortune, which was not the Fate of many Noble Families, who suffered for their Loyalty, as well as expressed their Zeal : But Sir *George* was so happy as to please ; being a Man of Wit, Humour and Learning, which hit the Taste of this merry Monarch ; and perhaps contributed as much to Sir *George's* Advancement, if not more, than all his Services, which were confessedly great : He was,
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immediately upon the Restoration, made one of the Senators of the College of Justice; and because the Revenue of that Place was not sufficient to support his Dignity, or reward his Merit, he was put into an Office, which seemed a Title incompatible, viz. that of Clerk Register: This was a kind of Plurality in Law Livings; as little justifiable as those of the Church, but few that are possessed of either, think them a Sin, or if they do, the Salary proves a Sovereign Styptic for the Wound which that makes in their Conscience. He was admitted one of the Privy-Council; and that he might have as many of the Offices of the Law as possible, he was shortly after made Lord Justice-General of the whole Kingdom, an Office which had been hereditary in the Family of *Argyle*, till the Marquis of that Title made a Surrender of it in the preceding Reign. These Offices he enjoyed during all that Reign, and the next, when, to all his other Honours, was added that of being created a Viscount and Baron by King *James VII.*

Such a Number of Places, and such an Inundation of Honours, heaped upon one Man, made many believe that they were obtained by Concessions, not very favourable to Sir *George's* Character, as a real Lover of his Country. It is certain Sir *George* followed the Court in all their Measures, and stuck at nothing that would promote the Schemes which they had

in View, which happened not at all Times to be the most popular: Whether Sir *George's* Compliance with these Measures, flowed from a Conviction (though erroneous) of their Justice and Public Utility, or from the Force and Influence of the many Places he enjoyed, I leave every Man to judge according to his Degree of Charity.

When the Oppression of *James VII.* banished him from these Kingdoms, Sir *George* did not think of following his Fortune; but wisely changed with the Times, and was as zealous a Defender of the Revolution as any Man: He made himself necessary to the Revolution-Ministry, and had the Address to preserve his Post of Justice-General, amidst all their Changes.

In Queen *Anne's* Time he was a Stickler, but was admitted of the Privy-Council, and for some time was Secretary of State, and allowed still to continue Justice-General; but whether he was not compliable enough in his Office of Secretary of State, or that the Party had served their Turn, he was turned out after the finishing a certain memorable and important Affair.

To all the other general Qualities of this great Man, and to all the distinct Places he enjoyed, my Historian makes him a great Officer; but where he had his Command, except is meant by it, the Commission for levying
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ing Men, I have just now mentioned, I know not ; but which ever way he became an Officer, my Author makes him the oldest Officer in the World when he died, which happened in the 89th Year of his Age.

Thus we have done with the Memoirs of the first Earl of *Cromarty*, of whom we shall say no more, than that he left Issue three Sons, the two youngest of whom, *James* and *Keneth*, were made Knights Baronets, with the same Precedence of their Grandfather Sir *John*.

The eldest Son *John* succeeded, who married *Ann Murray*, Daughter to the Lord *Elibank*, by whom he left Issue the present Lord,

George, the present Earl's Principles, till this unhappy Rebellion, never were suspected to lean in the least towards Jacobitism ; on the contrary, he was looked upon as the only Branch of the *Mac-Kenzies*, that could be any ways depended on : His Lordship is not supposed to have been early trusted with the Secrets of the Party. He was applied to (it's said) immediately upon the Pretender's Landing, but he was irresolute, at least seemed inclinable to give no positive Answer, before the Lord *Fortrose* his Chief had declared. When he did join them, which was not till after their Return from *England*, he did not bring any considerable Force along with him, at least, nothing equal to so considerable a Branch of the *Mac-Kenzies*, nor was he much in the Confi-

dence of the young Pretender, while he staid with them ; there was it seems a particular Dryness betwixt his Lordship, and *Murray* the Secretary, and the two *Irish* Favourites. His Lordship, like all other *Highland* Chieftains, could not with Patience bear that any Man should be caressed, but in Proportion to the Number of Men he brought into the Field ; judging that to be the only Touchstone of Merit in the Pretender's Circumstances : He knew these Men had brought nothing into the Field but their own Persons, which was all they had to risque, and yet were caressed and trusted more than those who brought Thousands, and risked a fair Estate and Princely Titles in the Cause. What a strange Thing must the Favour of a Prince be, when that of a Person, who only acted the Prince for some Time, should create such Jealousies and Strife, even amongst Men, whose All, whose very Existence, depended upon Unanimity !

His Lordship had many in the Rebel-Army, who were equally disgusted at the Preference given *Sullivan* ; and some joined in a Remonstrance to have him removed, which had no Effect, but to distract their Councils ; since the young Pretender knew the Value of the Man too well, to part with him, on the Pique and Caprice of a few : They were in this Distraction, when Preparations were made for an Engagement ;

gement; to which they were brought sooner than they imagined. But the Earl was not in it, he and his Son, the Lord *Mac-Leod*, being gone upon a Party into the Shire of *Ross*, thinking to be soon enough back before the general Engagement. But it is said his Lordship loitered by the Way, and might have joined, but did not, resolving (it is said) to leave them the first Opportunity.

The Fate of the Battle of *Culloden* made it needless for his Lordship to return, however he might be inclined; and therefore he was said to be preparing to set out for *France*, when he was surrounded by the Earl of *Sutherland's* Men, who had an easy Prey of him.

There are various Reports about the Manner of his being apprehended; some will have it the Effect of a bloody Engagement between the two Earls, and that his Lordship was not taken without selling his Liberty very dear: Others, and I fancy with more Truth, give out, that he was taken by Eleven Men, tho' he had five Times that Number about him, without the least Appearance of Opposition, which corresponds more with his former Design of leaving them; and which it had been happy for his Lordship if he had put in Practice, before their Affairs seemed to be so desperate, as they became upon the Battle of *Culloden*.

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The LIFE *and* FAMILY of
ARTHUR ELPHINSTON,
Lord BALMERINO.

THE honourable Name of *Elphinston*, though not very numerous in *Scotland*, and cannot be numbered as a potent Clan, yet is very antient, and has abounded with Men of Figure and Note in their Country, as much as any other Name whatsoever: They are said to have come originally from *Germany*, and that the first who appeared of the Name married, in the Days of *Robert* the first of *Scotland*, *Margaret*, Daughter to Sir *Christopher Seaton* of *Seaton*, by his Wife, the Lady *Christian*, Sister to King *Robert*.

This *German*, who is presumed, from his Alliance to so near a Relation of the Royal Family, to be a Person of some Note in his own Country, was a valiant and gallant Man, courted all Opportunities of distinguishing his Merit, which in those Days, when all Disputes public or private were decided by the Sword, were often given him; which he improved to his own Advantage, insomuch that he grew in great Esteem at Court, and was much careffed by King *Robert*, who was fond of his settling in the Country, and could
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not bear to think of his Return to *Germany*: He therefore, to take from him all Pretext for returning, and to give him a natural Interest in *Scotland*, bestowed on him several Lands in *Mid-Lothian*, the Revenue of which was sufficient to support his Dignity; especially in those Times, when Luxury and extravagant Expences were none of the modish Accomplishments of a fine Gentleman, however highly born: These Lands Mr. *Elphinston* called after his own Name, which they still bear.

From him descended *Alexander Elphinston*, of whom Records give us very little Account; they do not inform us what Relation this *Alexander* was to the first *Elphinston*, or what were the Names of those who intervened; they leave a Chasm in the Lineage from the Days of *Robert* the first, till the Thirty-third of *David* the second; when they tell us that this *Alexander* exchanged certain Lands, then in his Possession, called *Kinchinbar*, for certain other Lands called *Arthberg*, in the Shire of *Sterling*, then in the Possession of *Alexander*, Son of Sir *Adam Moor*. These Lands of *Arthberg* he called *Elphinston*, and is the chief Seat, and gives the Title of Lord to the Lord *Elphinston*, Chief of the Family we are now treating of. This is all that is said of *Alexander*; whether he died without Children, or what other Circumstances happened, we are entirely at a Loss, and from him we meet
with

with another Gap in the Line of Succession; since the next mentioned is one Sir *William Elphinston* of that * *Ilk*, of whose Relation to his Predecessors we are entirely ignorant; but whatever Connection he had with them, we find him possessed of their Estates, and of that Martial Disposition, which distinguished those of the Name: He is said to be remarkably tall and large built, and was reputed the strongest Man of the Age. In all Deeds of Chivalry, there were none could excel him; his Courage was equal to his Strength, and his Modesty and Affability excelled, if possible, both: He was apter to overlook an Affront, than Men less capable of resenting it; and chose rather to shew his Contempt of an unmannerly Fellow, than chastise him, unless there was a Probability of Honour being gained by the Victory: He made several Additions to the paternal Estate of the Family, both in the Shire of *Lothian*, and in that of *Sterling*, and married, when pretty much advanced in Years, a Lady of the antient and truly noble House of *Douglass*; by her he had a Son

Alexander, who succeeded him in his Estate, and very soon gave Proofs that he was worthy of such a Father; for though he had not that gigantick Strength which distinguished his Father,

* That is, of *Elphinston*, denoting him Chief of the Name; the *Scotch* using the Word *Ilk* instead of a Repetition of the same Name.

ther, yet he was possessed of all his Courage, and Vigour sufficient for the common Occurrences of Life: He applied himself chiefly to the Exercise of Arms, and in a short Time acquired a large Share of military Glory; for though but a Youth, he obtained considerable Command in the *Scotch* Army, then employed against the *English*; had many Engagements with them, where he had the chief Command, and always came off successful, loaded with Honour and Spoils, which was indeed the chief Result of these Skirmishes: But at the famous Battle of *Pipardain*, he exerted himself in so extraordinary a Manner, that all Historians agree, that the signal Victory, obtained by the *Scotch* that Day over the *English*, was entirely owing to his Valour and Conduct. But, though his Country in that glorious Action reaped Glory, and very much distressed their Enemies, yet this great Man did not live to reap the Fruits of his Victory; for his martial Ardour, hurrying him too far in the Pursuit, he was killed by a random Shot of some of the Runaways, or rather (as some say) by the Mistake of some of his own Men, too eager in the Chase to distinguish Persons, which in a great Measure compensated to the *English* the Loss of the Battle; and imbittered the Victory to the *Scotch*, who were so disheartened by the Death of this great Man, that they did not pursue the Advantage they had gained; but remained
unactive,

unactive, and allowed their Enemies to recover from their Panick, and recruit afresh, their scattered Army.

What added to the Misfortune of this Gentleman's Death, was, that he left no Male Issue; he left only one Daughter, named *Agnes*, who married *Gilbert*, Son and Heir of *Adam Johnston* of that *Ilk*, who was possessed, in right of her, of all the Lands belonging to her Father, in the Shire of *Mid-Lothian*; but those Lands named *Elphinston*, in the Shire of *Sterling*, devolved on his Death, in consequence of a solemn Arbitration in 1471, upon Sir *Henry Elphinston*, Brother to Sir *Alexander*, who, as the next collateral Male Branch, has continued the Line of this noble Family ever since, in a direct Lineage without any Interruption.

Sir *Henry*, now possessed of the greatest Part of the patrimonial Estate, and acknowledged the undoubted Chief, was no ways inferior to any of his Predecessors, in those eminent Qualities which raised them to their present Grandeur: He was a Man of great Prudence and OEconomy in the Management of his Estate, to which he made several considerable Additions: He was no less remarkable for his eminent Qualities as a Statesman, which he displayed in the discharge of several Employments in the State: He was no ways ambitious of Titles, or the Pomp of a Court; whereat he never appeared, but when the necessary

cessary Affairs of his Employments required: However, he introduced to the Court of *James* the fourth, his Son and Heir, Sir *Alexander*, whose Genius seemed better fitted for the Air of a Court, than that of his own.

Sir *Henry* died much regretted, and Sir *Alexander* his Son took Possession of his Estate and Honours, and had made such Interest at Court in his Father's Lifetime, that he succeeded without Opposition to all his Employments; was declared one of the Privy Council, and in a little Time created a Baron, and called to Parliament: He had merited very much of the King, in the Difference betwixt him and his Father; though his greatest Enemies do not charge him, as being accessory to any of those violent Measures, which sent the one *James* out of the World, and raised the other to the Throne.

He married *Margaret Barlow*, Maid of Honour to *Margaret*, Queen of *James* the fourth, who gave him in Dowry with her, the Barony of *Kildrumny*, in the Shire of *Marr*, but he did not live long to enjoy either his new Honours, or the Acquisitions by his Wife; for he followed his Royal Master to the fatal Field of *Flowden*, where he died fighting by his Sovereign, and was buried with the Flower of the *Scotch* Nobility, who that Day lost their Lives.

This noble Lord left Issue, by *Elizabeth* his Wife, *Alexander*, the second Lord *Elphinston*,

phingston, who was but an Infant when his Father died, was somewhat deformed in his Person, and had not the most promising Disposition; at least the Records of the Family, which are not generally very minute in recording of Vices they have said nothing shocking of him; yet have not been able to relate any thing good of him: He married *Elizabeth*, Daughter of *John*, Lord *Erskine*, by whom he had five Sons; the third of them, we are told, was Cup-Bearer to King *James* the sixth; the fourth was Master of his Household, and the eldest, named *John*, succeeded his Father.

John, the third Lord *Elphinston*, married *Elizabeth*, Daughter to Sir *John Drummond*, of *Innerpeffry*, by *Janet* his Wife, natural Daughter of King *James* the fourth; his Merit was conspicuous, and he soon made a Figure both in the Camp and Cabinet: His Inclination to the military was so great, that, as by the Union of the Crowns, the Jars between *Scotland* and *England* being now at an End, which used to employ the Youth of both Nations, he could not remain unactive at Home, but went over into the Service of the Emperor, where he signalized himself in such a Manner, as reflected great Honour both on himself and his Country; but his Fire of Youth abating, as his Years advanced, he returned to his own Country, where he made as considerable a Figure, as a Statesman,

as

as he had done Abroad as a General: His Interest was great at Court, and he made use of it, to ennoble and aggrandize his Family; he got his second Son *James*, created a Baron, by the Name and Title of Lord *Balmerino*; his eldest Son succeeded him in the Title of *Elphinston*, was made a Privy Councillor by King *James* the sixth, and Lord High Treasurer of *Scotland*: But we proceed no farther in this Branch of the *Elphinston's* Line; but shall now trace this Lord *Balmerino* down to the present unfortunate Nobleman in the *Tower*.

James Elphinston, second Son of Lord *Elphinston*, was, by his Father, bred to the Law; wherein he made great Proficiency, and in a short Time his Abilities were so remarkable in the Profession, that King *James* made him one of the Senators of the College of Justice.

His Abilities were not confined to the bare Study of the Law, but King *James* found him an able Statesman, and in a short Time made him Secretary of State, and President of the Court of Session; and he discharging those Offices to the Satisfaction of the Subject as well as of his Majesty, was created a Baron by the Name and Title of Lord *Balmerino*.

He married to his first Wife *Sarah*, Daughter to Sir *John Monteith* of *Cars*, by whom he had *John*, his Heir: He married to his second Wife, *Margery*, Daughter of *Hugh*

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Maxwell

Maxwell of *Tyling*, by whom he had one Son *James*, created Lord *Cowper*, and a Daughter married to Lord *Frazer*.

John, the second Lord *Balmerino*, was every way equal to his Father in great Parts, and had an universal Knowledge of Men and Letters: He married *Ann*, Daughter to *James Kerr* of *Kersland*, and Sister to the famous *Kerr*, Earl of *Somerset*, Favourite to King *James* the sixth, the Man for whose Sake he denounced a Curse upon his Posterity, which seems to have followed them and the Nation ever since.

Though the Lord *Balmerino* had all the Talents necessary to compleat a Statesman, and all the Address necessary to a Courtier, (being esteemed one of the politest Gentlemen of his Time) and had so great a Favourite for his Brother-in-Law, yet he never attempted any Thing at Court, or coveted any Places, either in *Scotland* or *England*; he left Issue one Son named

John, who succeeded him, and like his Father, lived retired from Court, upon the Patrimony of the Family: He married *Ann*, Daughter to *John Campbell*, Earl of *Loudon*; and by her had Issue,

John the fourth Lord *Balmerino*, who was in the Reign of Queen *Anne*, made General of the Mint, and Sheriff of the County of *Edinburgh*; and in One Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirteen, he was elected one of the Sixteen

teen Peers, to represent the Peerage of *Scotland* in the Parliament of *Great-Britain*: He married to his first Wife, *Christian* Daughter to *Hugh Montgomery*, Earl of *Eglington*, by whom he had two Sons, and one Daughter; *Hugh* the Eldest was killed at the Siege of *Lisle*. His second Wife was Daughter of *Arthur Ross*, Archbishop of *St. Andrews*, by whom he had two Sons and one Daughter.

James the Younger succeeded him. While he had no Prospect of the Estate of *Balmerino*, he was bred to the Law; where he made a very considerable Figure at the Bar, as an Advocate, had a large share of Employment, and was esteemed an able and honest Counsellor. He was rather a solid Pleader, than a refined Orator; but he understood the Law so well, and preserved the Chastity of his Character so tenderly, by avoiding being concerned in any scandalous Actions, that he was listened to with great Attention by the Bench, at a Time when it was filled with the most eminent Lawyers that ever appeared in *Scotland*.

His remarkable Abilities, accompanied with a great Sedateness, soon recommended him to a Seat on the Bench, where he discharged that high and important Trust with great Honour and strict Integrity. He was esteemed an able and just Judge, always avoiding mixing Party Spirit with the Bench: He never could be brought to prostitute the Dignity of his Office to serve Ministerial Jobs; but the
Country

Country might always depend upon him as a fast Friend, when any Thing relative to their Interest came before the Court.

He applied closely to his Business as a Judge, and gave such Satisfaction to the Practitioners before that Court, that I have known forty Causes in his Hand Roll, when there were not one fourth of that Number before some other Judges.

This worthy Lord died a Year and a half ago, but left no Issue; He was succeeded by *Arthur*, the present Earl, the Son of *John*, the fourth Lord *Balmerino*, by his second Wife, Daughter of *Arthur Ross*, Archbishop of *St. Andrew's*. This Lord was in the Army at the breaking out of the last Rebellion in the Year 1715, but threw up his Commission before he joined the Rebels, which saved him from being punished as a Deserter: He did not join them early, and brought along with him only his menial Servants; nor does it appear that he made any Figure amongst them, either in a civil or military Capacity.

F I N I S.



